

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

<p>Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).</p>
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REGULAR MEETING

May 4, 2021

6:30 p.m. Reed Point Community Roundtable

PRESENT	Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair, Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton and Steve Riveland, members; Shannon Fisher Admin Assistant. Others Present: Dana Weatherford, Weed District; Kevin Ray, Road & Bridge; Mike Ruggles, MT FWP; Terry Brumfield, Columbus Fire District; Citizens: Audrey Ott, Heather Jarrett, Lisa Schlievert, Kirk Schmidt and Harold Whitford.
PLEDGE	Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
MINUTES	None presented.
CLAIMS	107077 through 107146 in the amount of \$313,326.82. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve claims 107077 through 107146 in the amount of \$313,326.82. Commissioner Hamilton SECONDED . No discussion. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u>
ANNOUNCEMENT	Dana Weatherford announced that weed board has an opening for a member and is seeking representation from the Reed Point or Rapelje area. If anyone would like to apply contact Dana. The board only meets a couple of times per year to set the budget and complete business at the end of the spraying season. Commissioner Crago mentioned that the public hearing on the CDBG grant funds and the comment period will be open until July 30, 2021 and this is for the community development block grant. Interested parties can contact the Beartooth RC&D. Commissioner Hamilton announced that there is currently an open public comment period for Stillwater County joining the Big Sky Rail Authority. There are currently thirteen counties in the state looking at revitalizing the abandoned passenger rail system in the southern portion of Montana. Stillwater County has been invited to have a seat on the board. Public comment will be accepted until May 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
CONSENT AGENDA	<u>Road & Bridge</u> A) Purchase one 2021 CPS used late model CPS 40' spring ride bottom dump trailer \$35,230.00 Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to consent to the consent agenda. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED . No discussion. <u>Motion passed unanimously</u>
REGULAR BUSINESS	<u>District Court</u> A) Ninth addendum to lease agreement suite A in the amount of \$1,600.00 per month for three years. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the ninth addendum to lease agreement suite A in the amount of \$1600.00 per month for three years. No discussion. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u> <u>Public Health</u> A) Contract for Immunization Program 2021-2022 in the amount of \$6416.00. Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to approve the contract for immunization program 2021-2022 in the

amount of \$6416.00. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago noted that the \$6416.00 is a state and federal pass through from the county to the Stillwater Billings Clinic to operate the immunization program for the county. These are not county funds. Jerry Friend asked if the COVID immunization is funded in a different manner. Commissioner Crago replied that these funds are for the children’s immunizations program. Last year’s contract and follow up addendums may encompass the COVID immunizations as well. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer

A) Delinquent personal and real property taxes 5 years and older in the amount of \$2630.30 personal (mobiles) taxes and \$2663.69 in real property taxes. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to remove the above referenced taxes. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion – Jerry Friend stated that in order for the County to write off any taxes, they have to be at least five years old. If it is real property a tax lien will be placed against it. The only reason taxes are written off is if they are totally uncollectable and every effort has been made to collect the funds. Some are delinquent or derelict trailer houses that are gone but still being taxed. The real property taxes for one of these was a part of the Timberweld which has been out of business for several years now and the property is located on the railroad right of way. Most of the property taxes were collected when the business was sold but these were ones that were missed at the time. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission

A) Extend terms of Rich Cowger and Lee Cornell on Compensation Board until July 1, 2021. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to extend the terms of Rich Cowger and Lee Cornell on the compensation board until July 1, 2021. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Jerry Friend asked if the opening on the compensation board had been filled. Commissioner Crago replied that the opening had been filled by Dusty Davis. The reason these are being extended is that there was a meeting in April. The terms for Rich and Lee expire in the end of April but there is another board meeting scheduled for May 10th as the final meeting to set the compensation of elected officials. The extension is so that Rich and Lee can finish the process. Commissioner Riveland added that he had contacted both Rich Cowger and Lee Cornell and they are okay to have the terms extended to July 1. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – Jerry Friend asked for an update on the removal of the old bridge that is downriver. Mike Ruggles from Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the new regional manager, stated that MDT has pulled up one of the piers and will be filling the hole with rock and make the bank more solid. Any input from the local irrigators would be appreciated. The temporary bridge will stay in place throughout the summer and will be pulled out in the fall. The river should be open to floaters within the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Crago asked when will the improvements to the access point be completed. Mike replied that the plan is to strip the asphalt and leave the gravel base to be formed as needed and will hopefully be completed by the end of this year and if not right away next year. Terry Brumfield asked if there will be a boat ramp. Mike replied that there will not be a boat ramp but there will be a parking area and an outhouse and more turnaround space.

Jerry Friend asked where the County is at with the fairgrounds and the new county buildings. Commissioner Crago replied that the only thing currently on hold is the event center portion of the fairgrounds. The new law and justice center and a new county office building are currently in the planning phase. A new library has been discussed during these planning conversations along with a hybrid fix to a new fairgrounds north of the interstate, whether it is a rodeo arena with small ancillary buildings to start out with but some kind of fairgrounds redesign on a smaller scale that can still provide the service our current fairgrounds provides. Thursday there will be a meeting with the architect to work on the space needs and layouts for the law and justice center and the office building. Jerry asked if the Commission had brought any of the building plans Commissioner Crago replied that none had been brought to the meeting. Jerry volunteered to bring some of the plans for the community to view. These show the basic layout of the plans as far as buildings, construction and the renovation of the courthouse. There is a plan to renovate the old courthouse and put an elevator in it. Why is the county putting a bunch of money into the wonderful edifice if there will not be someone using it? Commissioner Riveland replied that the plan is to have someone in the old courthouse, whether it is the library and extension or office remodel. The plan is to have the building be a part of a public function in some form.

Jerry responded that people have been asking him about the plans and he is asking as a citizen and not a treasurer. Steve replied that a structural analysis was just done last week because some of the cracks are increasing in size and there is some heaving happening in places. The results of the analysis are not back yet. Tyrel stated that the original plan was for Law and Justice to take over the old courthouse building. With all the federal and state government money available, there is a heavy emphasis on safety, dispatch and law and justice. Those funds could be potentially be used for a law and justice center through grant money the center were a stand alone building as opposed to a remodeled courthouse. The other drawback of having the law and justice center in the old courthouse is that it not really a public space for public use unless you are there to go to court or to see the sheriff's department. If the old courthouse can be used for meeting rooms, extension offices or public offices so the public can still be entertained in the building would be the preference. Commissioner Riveland also stated that the building would be really hard to renovate into a law and justice center in order to provide the security and flow needed for that type of facility because of the structural build of the building. Jerry stated that the structural integrity of the building was an issue due to a broken water pipe and the southeast corner of the building dropped ten inches. It was jacked back up and fixed but how well and how long it will hold is not known. Commissioner Riveland stated that with the cracks that currently being monitored, the northeast corner of the building is now an issue.

Commissioner Crago asked if there was any further public comment. Mike Ruggles stated that the Cottonwood Island access is in the closing process and there will be title to it soon.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman
ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder